

MEXICO

this month

IN THIS ISSUE: ZIHUATANEJO  
MEXICAN GUITARS - NEW GOVERNMENT

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**MEXICO**

## OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The most special interest event in Mexico this month is the coming of Pablo Casals to Jalapa, Mexico. Maestro Casals will act as honorary judge for the second international contest for violoncello which is also named for him. This is not his first visit to Mexico because he has always had an affectionate regard for this country strengthened by their solid and consistent refusal to recognize the Franco government.

After the Spanish Civil War Casals left his native Spain to seek refuge in the village of Prades, France, and there remained in voluntary and bitter silence until 1950 when he consented to reappear in public at the Bach-Casals Festival presented in Prades.



In 1957 Pablo Casals presided over the First International Contest for Violoncello which took place in Paris. At the conclusion of the contest the Maestro was asked which country he would choose as a site for the second contest. He spontaneously exclaimed, "In Mexico!"

Since this announcement Mexico has been making elaborate plans for the success of the festival, and is presently awaiting the arrival of Pablo Casals with the love and respect that a man and musician of his calibre deserves.

# Preview

## WHAT TO SEE, WHERE TO GO IN

january

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### JANUARY climate

CITY	TEMP. (°F.)	RAIN (Inches)
Acapulco	78	9.4
Cuernavaca	65	8.1
Guadalajara	58	8.7
Mérida	73	1.2
México, D. F.	54	8.2
Monterrey	58	8.8
Oaxaca	63	8.1
Puebla	54	8.1
Tuxco	66	—

### fiestas & spectacles

**December 31-January 1. Mitla, Oaxaca.** The Zapotec Indians of Mitla call this night *Noche de Pedimento* (Wishing Night), and they converge on the site of a large cross at the entrance to the village, to build fires and maintain an all night vigil. Wishes are demonstrated in miniature by constructing tiny fields, oven, farms, houses or whatever to be placed at the foot of the cross. Attending tourists are advised to dress discreetly.

**January 1. Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato.** New Year's Fair and regional dances. Featured: *Los Comanches*, *El Torito* and *Los Compadres*.

**January 1. Tehuantepec, Oaxaca.** Commercial fair to celebrate the New Year. *Serenatas* in Hidalgo Park give the lovely Tehuana ladies a chance to display their spectacular regional costumes.

**January 3. Totolac, Tlaxcala.** Large and important religious fiesta always celebrated on the Sunday following its official date. The succeeding Tuesday a procession of dancers and musicians passes through the city's streets performing the *Danza de Moros* and that of the *Panaderos*. The latter is done by children.

**January 5-7. Irapuato, Guanajuato.** Popular fair commemorating the foundation of the city. Residents amuse themselves with *corridos*, parades, sporting events, a livestock fair and an industrial exhibit.

**January 6. Temascaltepec, Mexico.** Religious celebration prolonged until the 15th. Regional dances include *Arcos*, *Tecomates* and *Moros y Cristianos*.

**January 8. Ahila, Puebla.** *Los Voladores* fly around their pole at this fiesta, thrilling the spectators just as their pre-conquest ancestors did centuries ago.

**January 10-20. Morelion, Guanajuato.** Animated assemblage of villagers to celebrate the foundation of the city. Parades, *serenatas*, *corridos*, horse races and regional dances.

**January 10. Temax, Yucatan.** Fiesta respecting the Virgin of Buctozotz. Here the country folk dance the *jarana* which means

literally something noisy, and the gayety of the musicians and dancers doesn't belie the name. The dance is interrupted frequently by *bombas*, a witty and often



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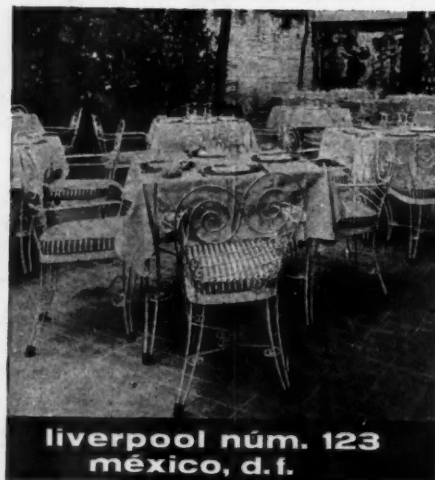
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January 15. **Jocotepec, Jalisco.** Spirited religious fiesta with *jaripeos* and dancing. The village, located on the far reaches of Lake Chapala, is small, charming and boasts a cozy *posada*.

January 15. **Ocoyoacac, Jalisco.** Another religious fiesta with regional dances. *Chalmerritos, Arrieros, Moros* and *Negritos*.

January 16. **Tepoztlan, Morelos.** Fiesta for Santa Catarina. Dancers take part in the *Danzas de Tepoztlan, Cuernavaca* and *Yautepec* accompanied by music played on *armadillo* shell instruments. The village is located very near Mexico City (See Nov. MTM), but has retained its primitive individuality.

January 17-25. **Leon de Los Aldama, Guana-juato.** Popular fair recalling the foundation of the city and dedicated to their patron saint, San Sebastian. The celebrants participate in the usual popular entertainment as well as agricultural, livestock and industrial fairs. Market activity is intense with all the products of the surrounding areas.

January 18. **Taxco, Guerrero.** Fiesta honoring village saint, San Prisca. Residents from the neighboring villages join the revelry which consists of a fair, regional dances, etc.

January 20-February 5. **San Juan de Los Lagos, Jalisco.** Pilgrims from all over the Republic are drawn to this fiesta for the *Virgen de la Candelaria*. This is in the heart of *charro* land, and they perform their best stunts. Other activities are cockfights, *Mariachis*, market specialties and so on.

## theater

**El Mensajero del Sol** — Spectacular presentation of the Aztec legend constitutes part of the program during the Pablo Casals International Festival in Jalapa, Veracruz. Jalapa Stadium. Sunday, Jan. 18. 11 am.

**La Llorona** — Tragedy based on a popular and traditional legend of the Colonial Period written by Carmen Toscano and enacted by the Popular Theater of the National Institute of Fine Arts. Presented in the court yard of the Jalapa Cathedral, January 28. 8 pm. Jalapa, Veracruz.

**Estampas de la Revolución** — Popular theater production staged in the Jalapa Stadium during the Casals Festival. Sunday, January 18. 8 pm.

**Dime Con Quien Andas** — An amusing treatment of the problems encountered by the F.B.I. because of a novelist. Manolo Fabregas produces, directs and acts. Teatro de los Insurgentes (Insurgentes 1587). Tel. 24-58-91. Daily at 8:30; Saturdays, 7:15 and 9:45; Sundays 5 and 8 pm.

**Las Manos Sucias** — Controversial political play by Jean Paul Sartre continues through January. Ebert Carlen directs a group of new actors headed by Alfonso de la Vega and Pilar Pellicer. Teatro del Granero back of the National Auditorium) Paseo de la Reforma. Tel. 20-43-31. Daily performances at 8:30; Saturdays, 7:15 and 9:45; Sundays, 5 and 8 pm.

**Un Sombrero Lleno de Paja** — Spanish version of Michael V. Gazzo's Hatful of Rain directed by Xavier Rojas. Featured stars are Lilia Prado, Miguel Manzano, José Gálvez, Freddy Fernández and Sergio Villagrán. Sala Chopin, Insurgentes and Puebla. Tel. 11-38-17. Daily at 8:30; Saturdays, 7:15 and 9:45; Sundays 5 and 8 pm.

**El Problema es Ginger** — Comedy by Ronald Alexander is interpreted by Tere Velázquez. Direction and production are executed by Landeta and Cardona. Teatro del Bosque, back of the National Auditorium on the Paseo de la Reforma. Tel. 20-90-10. Daily at 8:30; Saturdays, 7:15 and 9:45; Sundays, 5 and 8 pm.

**Nosotros, Ellas y el Duende** — Diverting comedy of family conflict written by Carlos Llopis. Stars Lucy Gallardo, Bárbara Gil and Miguel Córcega. Direction, production and part of the acting is done by Enrique Rambal. Teatro del Música, Va-

larta and Monumento de la Revolución. Two functions daily at 7:30 and 9:45; Sundays, 5 and 8 pm.

## music

**Popular Concerts** — Every Sunday morning band concerts are offered to the public in the following: parks: El Bosque de Chapultepec, La Alameda Central, Parque Centenario in Coyoacán, Santa María Ribera and others.

**Primitive Music** — The National Institute of Anthropology and History is conducting studies of indigenous music and languages and it is possible to hear their tapes through arrangement with the director, Luis Aurelia.

**Pablo Casals** — During the Second International Contest Pablo Casals for Violoncello to be celebrated in Jalapa, Veracruz, the following program has been planned:

January 19 — Choral recitals in the Lerdo Theater.

January 20-27 — Preliminaries and finals for all contestants.

January 20 — Concert by the Madrigalista Charus in the Lerdo Theater.

January 22 — Concert by the Chorus from the University of Jalapa in Jalapa Theater.

January 24 — Maestro Luis Herrera de la Fuente will conduct the Mexican National Symphony Orchestra in a concert. Mezzosoprano Margarita González-solist. Teatro Lerdo.

January 26 — Recital of songs sung in aboriginal languages. Teatro Lerdo.

January 27 — Concert of Mexican Music directed by Maestro José Ives Limantour. Violin solo-Higinio Rubalcaba. Teatro Jalapa.

January 31 — Concert given by contest winners with the Jalapa Symphony Orchestra directed by Maestro Luis Jiménez Caballero.

February 1 — Concert of works composed by Pablo Casals directed by the Maestro. Teatro Lerdo.

## art

**Galería Proteo**, Génova 34, second floor. Latest works of Patric.

**Galería Antonio Souza**, Génova 61, second floor. Beginning January 15th an exposition of works from the Parisian School No. Two.

**Galería de Artes Plásticas de la Ciudad de México**, Pérgolas of the Alameda Central. Collective exposition featuring all artists who have displayed in the gallery.

**Galerías Pemex**, Ave. Juárez 93. Works of many Mexican name artists.

**Galería de Arte Mexicano**, Milán 18. Paintings by Dr. Carrillo Gil.

**Museo de Arte Moderno**, Palacio de Bellas Artes, Ave. Juárez and San Juan de Letrán. The new modern art section at the Fine Arts Palace is devoted to an enormous exhibition of contemporary art from various countries.

**Museo Nacional de Artes e Industrias Populares**, Ave. Juárez 44. Permanent exhibition of popular arts and crafts from the entire Republic of Mexico. All items are priced for sale.

**Museo Clemente Orozco**, Hamburgo 113. New museum with a permanent exhibition of the art left by Orozco.

## dance

**Mexican Modern Dance** — The Modern Ballet Group of Mexico will participate in the Pablo Casals International Contest Festival with a performance on January 23 in the Lerdo Theater. The Jalapa Symphonic Orchestra will accompany them. Jalapa, Veracruz.

**Regional Dances** — A complete and enormous review of regional dances will also be presented Jalapa as a part of the Casals Festival.

## sports

**Boxing** — Arena Coliseo, Perú 77. Programs offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays starting at 9 pm. Saturdays, a card is sometimes scheduled at the Arena México, Dr. Río de la Loza 94, at which

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time there is no function at the Arena Coliseo.

**Baseball** — There will be no organized baseball in Mexico City until the April opening of the Class-AA Mexican League. The best baseball in Mexico at the present time is being played in Puebla, Córdoba, Veracruz and Jalapa. These cities comprise the Veracruz Winter League.

**Frontón Metropolitano** — Bahía de Todos Santos 190. Women players using rackets billed here. Functions Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 4:15 pm. On Monday, play gets going at 4:30 pm. There is no program Thursdays.

**Frontón México** — R. Arizpe y Plaza de la República. Matches every day except Monday. Tuesdays and Wednesdays the card starts at 7:30 pm. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the first match time is 6 pm.

**Soccer** — Olympic Stadium on Insurgentes. The 14 teams of the Major Soccer League compete Sundays at noon and sometimes Wednesdays and Thursdays at night. Sundays, a preliminary is offered at 10 am.

**Wrestling** — Arena Coliseo, Perú 77. Functions Tuesdays and Fridays at 8:30 pm. Sundays at 5 pm.

## horses

**Hipódromo de las Américas** — Lomas de Sotelo, Mexico City. Racing Thursdays, Saturday and Sundays with the first parade to the post at 1:55. Pari-mutuel betting machines available. The top races for January are the National Commission Classic and the Malinche Classic. The Racing Commission event is a handicap

for mares and fillies, set for January 11. The distance is six furlongs for a purse of \$25,000 added pesos. January 25, the Malinche Classic for 3-year-old fillies is run over a layout of one mile for a purse of \$30,000 added pesos.

**Charros** — Mexican charros work out every Sunday morning at 11 am. at the following ranches:

Rancho La Tapatía, Calzada del Molino Rey, near Los Pinos, the Presidential Residence.

Rancho de Charros, Ejército Nacional.

Rancho Grande de La Villa, at the foot of Los Indios Verdes, entrance from the Laredo highway.

Rancho Santa Anita, Calzada de La Viga, Santa Anita, D. F.

## bullfights

**El Toreo, Cuatro Caminos** — At press time, information indicated that El Toreo will be closed until further notice.

**Plaza México, Avenida Insurgentes** — The formal season is now in full swing with a *corrida* every Sunday at 4 pm. Mexican *matadors* in action are: Luis (El Soldado) Castro, Fernando (El Callao) de los Reyes, Emilio Rodríguez, Antonio Velázquez, Rafael Rodríguez, Jorge (El Ranchero) Aguilar and Manuel Capetillo. Attempts are still being made to obtain the services of Spanish *matadors*.

**In the Republic** — Fights, mostly *novilladas*, held every Sunday afternoon at 5 pm. in Acapulco. Bullfights scheduled sporadically in other cities during the winter for charity and special events. The rings in Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez have completed the regular season.

## regatta

The San Diego and Acapulco yacht clubs will sponsor the annual yacht race from San Diego to Acapulco. (See Acapulco)

## auto show

presented in the National Auditorium from January 14-30.

## cultural exchange

Each Tuesday night a round table discussion is conducted among some 35-45 Mexicans and Americans in the interest of promoting cultural, economic and social exchange between Mexico and the United States. A distinguished guest speaker is usually invited Chilpancingo 23. Tel. 25-20-12 (Mr. or Mrs. Robert Cuba Jones) 6-8 pm.

## OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN COMING MONTHS

**Chemical Exhibit** — During the month of February the International Congress and Exposition of the Chemical Industries will take place in the National Auditorium, Mexico City.

**Mardi Gras** — February 4-10. Uninhibited pre-Lenten festivities break loose in Vera Cruz, Mazatlán, Tampico, Mérida, Morelia, Guadalajara, Monterrey and Ensenada.

**Fiesta de la Candelaria** — The very last of the Christmas activities. The lucky drawer of the porcelain doll in the *Rosca de Reyes* (See In January) gives a party on this day, Feb. 2.

**Constitution Day** — Commemoration of the promulgation of the Constitution of 1857 which embodied the liberal reforms by Benito Juárez, as well as the Constitution of 1917, product of the Revolution of 1910. Celebrated Feb. 5.

**Home Fair** — A huge exhibition of products for the home will be on display during the month of March in the National Auditorium.

**Spring Symphony** — The National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico will celebrate its spring season during March, April and May under the direction of Luis Herrera de la Fuente, and has invited a number of excellent guest directors and soloists.

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# this month IN ACAPULCO

Foremost event on the January agenda in this resort town is the annual San Diego-Acapulco yacht race. Entry and schedule information is available through the San Diego and Acapulco yacht clubs. Last year there was a record showing of thirty-six boats headed by winner Don Chilcott who skippered "Windward" a Class-A sloop across the nish line after a voyage of eight days, twelve hours, thirty-four minutes and forty-three and two-fifths seconds.

The big Commercial Fair continues through January, and the Ski Tournaments begin. Acapulco provides the world with some of the best skiers, and they are said to even fly on skis using kites. Write the Acapulco Ski Club directly for details.

If you're seeking tranquility but would

still like to be near Acapulco's attractions, we suggest Pie de la Cuesta, a small fishing village located several miles south of Acapulco. Accomodations are primitive, but the lush surroundings compensate for any plumbing failures.

Vacationers planning to take advantage of the tropical climate and yacht race atmosphere during January find Acapulco easier than ever to reach. Mexicana de Aviacion has now successfully inaugurated its new direct service from Los Angeles. Planes now leave the L. A. International Airport at 10:15 am. PST on Fridays with DC-6 equipment, and on Saturdays with the Bristol Britannia of Aereonaves. Both planes features first and tourist class accomodations. Just right for a week-end or a winter holiday.

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# From our readers

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Dear MTM

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you could know

*Patty Jones*

## EXPATRIATE RETURN

(Editor's Note: Don Demarest, who was one of MTM's old hands and founding fathers, returned to the U.S. a couple of months ago—to Fresno, Calif. His letter on how it feels to return, how the U.S. looks to an old expatriate, was so interesting that we thought it really should be shared, at least in brief.)

We're settled now in the heart of the American Dream. We have a 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom ranch-house with all the built-in conveniences: washing-machines, electric ranges and ovens, garbage disposal, miles of hoses and hundreds of sprinklers, 2 orange trees (guaranteed to be light in December), a '50 Pontiac with whitewalled tires which neither Betty nor I can yet drive, and a marvellous public school across the street.

All very exurbanite—except our neighbors aren't bankers or insurance salesmen but bakers, *albaniles*, plumbers, aviation mechanics and gandy dancers. Armenians, Italians, Japanese, Mexicans, etc. No wife-swapping in this suburb. Beer guzzling instead of martini swilling. No keeping up with the Joneses unless you count Jonas Abakadrian, who has one of those old fashioned ice cream machines. The kids demand one, but where can you find one nowadays?

The children aren't ostracized because they don't speak good English—because the neighbor kids don't either.

They're good neighbors, even though they make about double what I do (the plumber makes 800-1200 a month). They lend us tools and fix our washing machine. We husbands have a formal relationship; but our wives are chummy.

In other words we are all so cozily swept into the American Dream that we haven't had time to be homesick for Tenochtitlan. Betty has been seduced by the gadgets, and the frozen pies in the supermarkets; the kids have been entranced by the easy camaraderie of the neighborhood (even Johnny who can't speak a word of English gets around on gestures and smiles); and I'm entirely won by a six hour working day that allows me to do my own writing at night.

We may well be living in a repatriate's rosy dream (as good as it is it depends a lot on comfort and gadgets—prefab and dehydrated and frozen and packaged goods, easy credit and technicolor bubbles that could be pricked overnight.) We lack the sense of continuity that there is in Mexico—the occasional ideal there of struggling together for a future. There is somewhat a sense in our polyglot neighborhood that we have reached a peak that must lead downwards; that our second generation immigrant success is built on luck and inflated values; that our "luck" has been achieved at the

expense of denying ancestral and spiritual values.

But this very awareness—which I don't think you'd find in Westchester or Santa Barbara—gives the neighborhood a good, tough core of reality. Come the debacle, these craftsmen know they can survive. The world will always need master carpenters, plumbers and bakers—even if their weekly salary sinks from \$200 to \$25 a week. Something the insurance salesman, or realtor can't count on.

But there is a spiritual leakage. Our neighbors don't go to church. Or if they go to church, it's not the church they grew up in. The lunatic sects are the strongest here, but even the old faiths, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Mahometan are streamlined, uneasy, a bit prefab. If we ever come back to Mexico it will be because of this.

But on the whole it is good to be back—good to repatriate; especially for a couple like Betty and myself who have spent more than half our lives away from our native ground. And especially good to have the children realize a little bit of and appreciate their heritage. It is a marvellous country. And this particular section of it—this neighborhood, this town, this country, this state—especially so.

Vol. V, No. 1, January, 1959

## MEXICO/ this month

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Our Cover: The deep sea and one fish therein are basic symbols of MTM's prime January interest: Zihuatanejo and Mexico's sunny Pacific Coast.



## PHOTO CREDITS:

Three photos at bottom of page 9 are by Mary St. Albans; all on pages 10 and 11 by Mayo Brothers; p. 12, Jesús Centeno; p. 13 and 16, Dave Weber; p. 17, Anna Kelly; p. 18 and 19, all by Wilson; p. 20 and 21, Museo Nacional de Antropología.

This little hook (MTM's sign), swiped from the Aztec codices, means words, music, wind and waves.

# person to person

If this issue reaches you before the bells, horns, gongs, ding out the old and ring in the new (our luck has been somewhat resistant lately) you can perhaps work in a Oaxaca twist to your New Year gala by ceremonially breaking all your dishes—or your neighbor's if you prefer.



They start doing this in Oaxaca around Christmas, when the stands in the plaza sell *buñuelos*, a sort of flaky pancake, with honey, and you ceremonially smash the plate after you've finished with the pancake. It sounds sort of like the same idea that Russian (or was it German) noblemen used to practise when they threw the champagne glasses around after a solemn toast, but this one has a different origin.

Once upon a time the ancient Oaxacans (like most of the ancient Mexicans) used to hold their breaths at the end of the year, not sure whether the universe really would go on; and so they ceremonially cleaned house and prepared for the end of the world, breaking all their dishes. Or maybe it was only the cracked and smudged ones; how can anybody tell for sure...?)

But in any case, for this reason probably, you find potsherds of antique make everywhere you go in Mexico, often even if you don't dig. Just look down and there are the remains of Happy New Year, 1421 or 873 or 516 just kicking around in the same old cornfield.

In the further interest of laughter, fun and games, we've reproduced in this issue some pictures of ancient figurines that were part

of artist Miguel Covarrubias' wonderful collection of pre-Spanish art. Not surprisingly, his choices mirror his own amused and energetically dancing outlook, and so are truly a good memorial to him, as recently installed in the National Museum.

Bartoli, getting professorial again, did us some research this time into what happens to foreigners in Mexico. (Page 23).

This began when it was remarked how often Americans tend to go a bit haywire at this altitude, and it was further remarked that it wasn't the altitude that made the headiness, it was rather more often too much money too fast, and a lot of servants, and power and prestige, and so on.

Whatever the cause, it is a fact that foreigners often get a touch of paranoia, or what seems like it to us Old Old Old Old Timers. They get to feeling very powerful and persecuted. Expropriators under the bed, Communists in all the bushes, or just generally Mexicans with Evil Designs, are the run-of-the-mill hallucinations from which most of the foreign colonies tend to suffer, but more especially Americans and the richer English.

Bartoli researched the subject very thoroughly and came up with some very interesting examples of the typical maladies of migrants here. Being a Catalan himself, he did that one first, and with dispatch.

P. S. He says that altitude has nothing to do with it. Insists they're all positively the same syndromes in Acapulco.



We sit down hesitantly to make our annual comment about a new year. Since there are many kinds of year that elapse all the time, it has to be decided what variety of year we are talking about. The year we have in mind is a composite one having calendar, fiscal, astronomical and civil characteristics, but we may as well call it 1959.

A year ago we predicted that nothing worthy of a centenary celebration would occur in 1958. We'll have to wait until 2058 to be sure, but it seems as if we were right. The triumph of the year, putting missiles in orbit around the Earth, will be greatly outdone before another hundred years go by. What, then, is the outlook for 1959?

There will be peace, preserved by deep-freeze. Of course, there will be "situations" in every quarter of the globe. These situations are what used to be called wars, but not any more.

There will be more human beings than ever before, a higher standard of living for more people, and the assurance of a subsistence for a much greater number than ever before.

Bureaucracy will not pyramid any more, strictly speaking, because the verb would presuppose the reaching of a terminal peak. Bureaucracy will abandon pyramids for cubes. This process will be necessary to provide the means of overcoming the impediments that bureaucracy inevitably sets up.

Speeches and advertising will be so fictitious and reassuring that we can easily keep an illusion that we are living in a happy new year.

Man will follow domestic animals into space, a faltering step toward the necessity, some millions of years hence, of our having to abandon this planet.

So, we predict that 1959 will be a little better on balance than 1958, which isn't saying much, but a hell of a lot better than the year 3700459.

## NATIONAL PANORAMA

### CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH, IS PLEDGED BY NEW GOVERNMENT


As Released to MTM by the  
Bureau of Economic Research  
of the Nacional Financiera, S. A.

The new government has committed itself to continuing the nation's economic growth at a rate fast enough to cover both the astounding population increase and give some attention at the same time to improving the really backward sectors of Mexico. So stated President Adolfo López Mateos in his inaugural address to the nation. He noted that national progress is closely tied with the growth of human dignity in the form of greater liberty, culture and welfare when it is general and balanced — not concentrated among the few, limited to certain regions and activities.

Mexico's economic advancement during the next six years, the president promised, will be pursued with monetary stability, achieved in turn by increasing production and exports, adjusting imports, maintaining budget balance and a sound credit position, and strengthening the nation's external payments capacity.

This will require an adequate volume of investment, and private initiative will be encouraged to make new investments and plow back profits. Government investments, he said, will be carefully planned and aimed at opening up new occupations and supporting rural development. Regional coordination will also be stressed to make full use of the country's varied resources.

The educational system will continue to develop, not only in traditional academic fields but in providing basic learning and technical education for farmers and industrial workers.



In international matters, the new president emphasized that Mexico remains dedicated to strengthening cooperation among nations, particularly those in the Western Hemisphere.

## News and Comment

The biggest economic news of the year is likely to be the realization of an old, old dream of Mexico and other Latin American countries.

This is the long-talked-of Inter-American Bank, a common treasury that would help cushion financial crises caused by world price fluctuations and trade barriers.

Mexico has taken the leadership in the regional economic co-op idea and similar plans. Some of its most decisive arguments were put forth recently on two fronts: by Mexican delegate Luis Quintanilla before the United Nations, and by Banco de Mexico director Rodrigo Gomez in the Washington meeting of nations interested in the bank.

What happens next is being watched closely not only in this hemisphere but in other parts of the world, where plans for social stability are also afoot.

"Mexico's credit has never been better. Business relations between our countries, on both government and private levels, are very good and constantly improving."

This was the optimistic view given to MTM by Samuel Waugh, executive director of Eximbank who came to Mexico as part of the official U. S. delegation for the swearing-in of the new president. Such a statement could not have been made at the previous inauguration, six years ago.

When Ruiz Cortines took over in 1952, Mexico was near bankruptcy.

Foreign credits were low and national monetary reserves were practically exhausted by the freespending previous administration. In addition, there was the general world recession of 1953 to cope with, drought weather that cut down farm production. All of which led, say the experts, to Mexico's large peso devaluation in 1954: from 8.65 to 12.50 to the dollar.

The devaluation was about the only questionable economic mark in the long Ruiz Cortines term. For the rest of it, he put the country solidly on a road of improvement, both economic and social, as the following statistics show:

Mexico's road system was increased by 45% between 1952 and 1958; a

similar increase was noted in land brought under irrigation (so much so that, instead of having to import, Mexico has been exporting such basics as cotton, wheat, and corn; manufacturing grew by 40%; petroleum production leaped up 49%, tourism more than doubled.

The overall economy of Mexico has increased, year by year, at the rate of 7% which has been well ahead of the big (3% per year) population growth.

The most significant figure of all is the foreign exchange reserves, which six years ago stood at 250 million dollars, are today at around 400 million. And just as good, though harder to calculate, is Mexico's standing in the international credit world, reflected perhaps best by foreign investment, which in 1957 amounted to 1,200 million dollars as compared to 675 million when Ruiz Cortines took over.

Diplomatic and political bigwigs who came to Mexico for the López Mateos inauguration were quickly divided into certain arbitrary categories by the press, both Mexican and foreign. First of all, were they worth interviewing? Approximately one out of five was. Second, did they have anything to say once a press conference was set up? About one in ten did.

One of the most lucid and thoughtful of the interviewees was U.S. Sen. Wayne Morse, who also held a certain news value for Mexico because he heads the subcommittee now making an exhaustive study of Latin American affairs as a guide to future U.S. policies.

Morse made it clear at the outset that his group is making "a study, not an investigation." Specific issues up for examination range from economic trade policies to political structures. The end result of the study, said Morse in his press conference at the Reforma Hotel, is to shape U. S. policies in Latin American on a "mutuality" basis: namely, to help both the U. S. and the country involved.

By this month, said Morse, his group should be awarding around \$120,000 worth of research contracts to experts and institutions who have the answers to exactly what makes Latin America tick.

# in January



6

The Three Wise Men from the Orient make their annual trek to Mexico on the night of January 5th to fill the shoes of sleeping children with gifts. Before retiring the family and guests partake of the traditional *Rosca de Reyes* (bread baked in a circular form) accompanied by thick, hot chocolate. A small porcelain doll representing the Christ Child is baked inside the bread, and the person drawing it in his portion is obliged to give a party for all present on February 2, *Día de la Candelaria*.



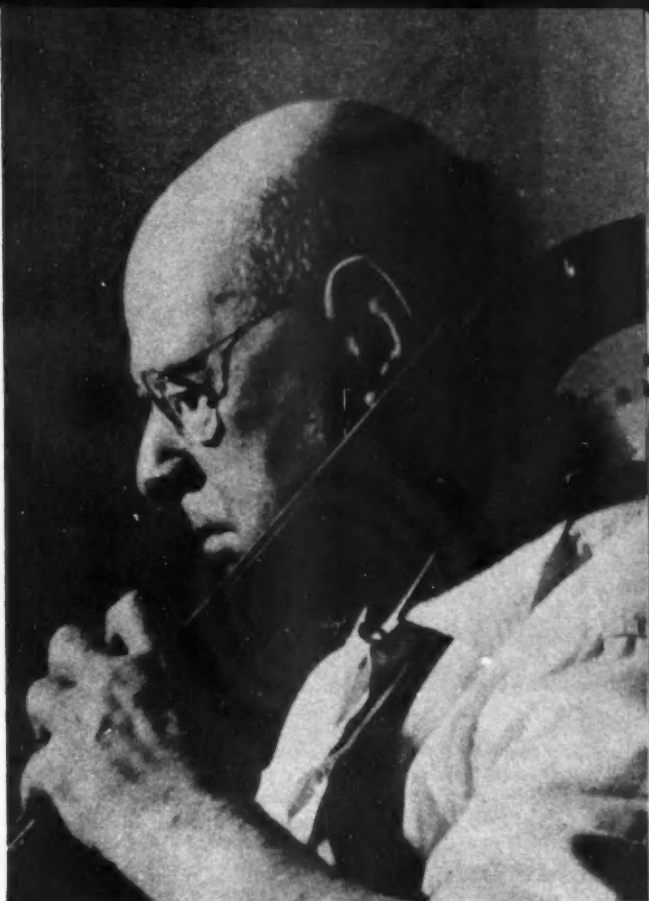
6

This day is set aside for the pilgrimages of the Aztec and Otomi Indians to Chalma, Mexico to visit the revered *Señor de Chalma*, an image of Christ on the Cross which is supposed to have appeared miraculously to replace the Indian god, *Otzcoatl*. Many miracles are attributed to this Figure, and consequently if something is considered beyond fulfillment, the people say — *ni yendo a bailar a Chalma*, "Not even by going to dance at Chalma."

17

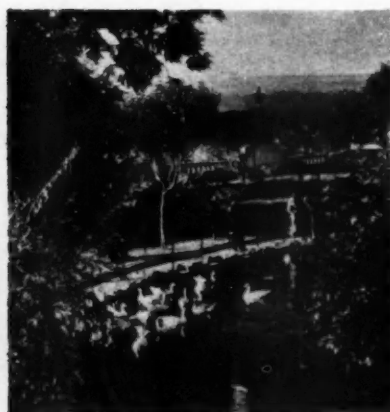
Feast Day of Saint Anthony the Abbot, and since he is the patron saint of domestic animals, the family pets prepare to go to church. Scrubbed, combed and beribboned dogs, cats, parrots, burros, lambs, chickens, etc. form a procession with their owners to the church door where the priest awaits to bless them. The beatific mood of the day is generally unblemished, discounting an occasional dog fight or profane parrot.

Sometime during the month of January a small fleet of yachts will push off from their base at the San Diego Yacht Club not to stop until they reach their goal, the Acapulco Yacht Club (see In Acapulco). The grueling trip is rewarded by a hero's welcome in Acapulco.



17

Famed Cellist Pablo Casals has chosen Jalapa, capital of the State of Veracruz, as the site for the Second International Pablo Casals Contest for Violoncello. Contestants from 16 countries and thousands of spectators will probably overflow the town's facilities, but it still seems a happy choice. Jalapa, several views of which are below, is a particularly tranquil and flower-filled spot, not on the regular tourist beat, and has had a traditional interest in music.





President Adolfo López Mateos, who took office last month, kicked off with policies of optimistic realism, emphasizing education, economic development, towards one main objective: a rise in the overall standard of living, to attain true individual freedom and dignity. Above, the new president and some of his key men.



Foreign Affairs Secretary Manuel Tello, who held the Washington Embassy post in the last regime, is a careful, trusted diplomat with many years of service.



Secretary of Gobernación Díaz Ordaz heads the cabinet, is known as a brilliant politician and sound administrator.

*politics*

With the steady rhythm of men at work (and here and there a woman too) Mexico this January digs into a new chapter of its modern times.

It is a fascinating characteristic of this story that it does indeed change, and rather fundamentally even, each six year. This is the length of a presidential term and, added to the fact that for the past thirty-odd years Mexico has been governed by the same party, one would expect considerable repetition of policies and personalities.

But instead, although there is underlying unity of direction, and considerable agreement, throughout all levels of Mexican society, as to what this direction is; and co-operation cutting across even major differences, to achieve the national objectives, the style and climate of each administration is as a rule a dramatic contrast to the one preceding it.

At the same time each one is like a phase of growth, with coherence and development one can clearly trace, as in an individual. Perhaps the most dramatic aspect of the story is indeed this: since after all it is the story not of an individual, but of a whole people, that is proceeding with the beauty of logic. Knowing the underlying trends and the main direction, therefore, and the things that Mexico wants and how the national mechanics

works, one can follow very well what is happening; though, seen by U.S. ideas and standards, the picture often looks very confusing and at times incomprehensible.

For example the López Mateos administration, which consists largely of young men and many of them intellectuals, until it took over and began to show its very steady, realistic makeup in action, was wrapped around in foreign rumors and speculation; even to the point of fears of currency devaluation, although reserves are strong and the country's economic position generally, has never been stronger. In the U.S. also, many reporters, looking at the well-cut suits and university backgrounds of this group, came to the conclusion that the social significance of it is The Rise of the Middle Class. But in Mexico, nobody is sure who that would be, exactly; and instead the political moment is seen pretty generally as the consolidation of the *técnicos*, or know-how men.

In thirty years Mexico's political powers-that-be have spiralled from the tough, free-swinging military men who emerged from revolutionary war, to the highly experienced, immensely sophisticated administrators and political scientists who run the government today. Possibly their origin lies in the fact that the generals of revolutionary days all

had right-hand men, scribes (some of whom later became leading literary men) who explained laws, diplomacy, and similar mystery.



Senate Leader Manuel Moreno Sánchez carries the ball in Congress in planning and developing administration policies.



Secretary of Education Jaime Torres Bodet, until recently Ambassador to France, outlined widespread and active educational programs.



Defense Secretary Olachea is an old-time military man, once a revolutionary leader and deeply respected for his quiet integrity.



Secretary of the Treasury: Antonio Ortiz Mena. His experience: management in difficult posts, smoothly governing quantities of people, quantities of money.



Water Resources Minister Del Mazo: looked upon as one of the brainiest of the new team.



Labor Secretary Barros Sierra, a jurist known particularly for the quality most needed in this post: courage.



Minister of Health Amézquita, a prominent Mexico City physician, has done considerable public health work.

## and personalities, 1958-64

—handling many millions— above reproach.

The new President, as is quite widely known by now, is a combination of the three traits typical of government heads: educator (in his very young manhood he headed a higher education institute in his home state), administrator (as an officer of the National Finance Company he reorganized and ran the national printing plant, which achieved efficiency and even made money for the first time in its history); and diplomat — as Secretary of Labor in the Ruiz Cortines administration he made a phenomenal record of no strikes, no runs, and darn few errors, ending up well liked by both sides.

New in this administration will be the fact that Congress, especially the Senate, will play a considerably livelier and more far-reaching role than has for some time been the case. For this purpose, a number of Mexico's leading jurists and literary men were drafted by the López Mateos forces and elected to the new Congress. Leader of the Senate is the President's close friend Manuel Moreno Sánchez, a young man of keen and well-stocked intellect and fabled working habits, and of the smiling, nimble and popular sort that political sages keep their knowing eye on.

Sharp move too was the reappointment of Mexico City's Regent, Ernesto Uruchurtu, to them, handled the correspondence

and wrote much of the legislation that came out of the upheaval.

So an interesting highlight on the change is, for instance, the gradual drop in size of the once-huge military budget, and the rise of the school budget, so that now it is usually at the top, or close to it of all national expenditures. Head of this Ministry in the López Mateos cabinet in Jaime Torres Bodet, dean of Mexico educators, who has also had a long and distinguished career in the diplomatic corps. Torres Bodet, a writer, was the inventor (as Education Minister in a previous cabinet) of the Each One Teach One formula for eradicating illiteracy that caught the popular imagination and got sensational results.

Another figure typical of modern governmental calibre is Raul Salinas, a young economist who heads the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the key job there being to keep the pot of business and industry boiling. Balance in this team, in the immensely delicate job of Secretary of the Treasury, is Antonio Ortiz Mena, who has behind him many years of efficient and discreet management in the most unwieldy kind of posts; such as, for instance, the gargantuan and complex machinery of the Social Security administration, which ran under him smooth as butter, and who hit high scores for popularity throughout the last administration, for the beautiful

and energetic way in which he cleaned, rebuilt and lighted much of the city, also planting its now famed and familiar avenues of flowers.



Popular reappointment: Ernesto Uruchurtu (nicknamed Don Flow'ring Fountains) as Regent of Mexico City.



report on:

# Zihuatanejo

by Dave Weber

The hardest thing to understand about Zihuatanejo, apart from its pronunciation, is how it has remained the unspoiled little place it still is despite all the publicity it has had.

People, particularly travel writers, have been "discovering" the quiet fishing village on Mexico's Pacific coast since before World War II. To spread the good news they have sent movies, magazine, articles, newspaper pieces, and even television films back to the civilized world. The potent media of word-of-mouth advertising has been at work, too. And yet Zihuatanejo has not been fazed: hardly a palm branch has been changed on the thatched roofs over the villagers, nary a mud hole has been filled in the narrow dirt streets, scarcely a hammock has been restrung in the shady verandas.

The tourist rush you would expect after such rhapsodic publicity, in short, has failed to materialize. The little village has yet to be spoiled by

hungry beach peddlers, chrome sandwich palaces, and air conditioned skyscrapers lining the waterfront.

The fact is, Zihuatanejo will remain unpolished, uncomplicated, uncostly, and uncrowded just as long as it remains unreachable. By modern standards of mass movements, it is inaccessible indeed. The only land communication it has with the outside world is a tortuous dirt road leading up from Acapulco, discouraging to all but full-traction vehicles during the wet part of the year. By sea, the clear blue bay is inviting, but hardly practical for seagoing visitors because the town still lacks good tie-up facilities for boats.

The most feasible inroad to Zihuatanejo is by air, either by private plane or the thrice-weekly commercial flight from Mexico City and Acapulco.

Zihuatanejo's unspoiled status will remain for at least another year. It will take that long for the government

to put in the necessary bridges and lay down pavement on the final one-third of the 147-mile road from Acapulco.

What will happen then? Visionaries, planners, promoters, parasites, saloonkeepers and speculators all have different ideas. But one thing is sure: As soon as the bulldozers complete their work and a striped-trouser official comes in to cut the symbolic ribbon on the new highway, Zihuatanejo is in for a change.

Without resorting to prophesy, let us deal with Zihuatanejo as it is right now:

The town gets its hard-to-pronounce name (phonetically, zee-HUAH-tah-NAY-ho) from the Aztecs, who called the bay "Zihuatl Nejotl." This has the arresting, but unexplained, translation of "Dark Woman." The town itself was built up about 100 years ago as a convenient headquarters for fishermen and as a port entrance for a big coconut and banana hacienda,

Not easy to reach, but worth the effort, is this uninvaded village in its setting of palms and smooth white beaches

fated to be ultimately broken up by the Land Reforms.

Zihuatanejo now counts a population of around 1,500, mostly fishermen, and the farmers who take care of the divvied-up hacienda and proudly refer to their "plantations" at every opportunity.

These natives are rather blasé about their rushing surf and smooth beaches that hold such an allure for visitors.

The village is on the inside rim of a nearly-closed bay, so that the surf is toned down considerably by the time it washes in to the main beach. The big cup of the Dark Woman bay is lined all the way around by beaches, partitioned off at intervals by rocky, outjutting cliffs. This means that unless you're a good swimmer you have to come back on land and climb over rather steep hills to get from one beach to another, an arrangement that makes for brisk business among the small boat owners who ferry tourists around from spot to spot along the bay.

They also make longer seagoing excursions for visitors who want to vary their stay in Zihuatanejo. A favorite destination is the island of Ixtapa, about ten miles north. This is a lovely little piece of land surrounded by good beaches and occupied exclusively by birds who find it a sure refuge from the prevailing winter winds. It is replete with stories about buried treasure, and although many a hopeful searcher has criss-crossed the island with his spade, not a single piece of eight has been found there.

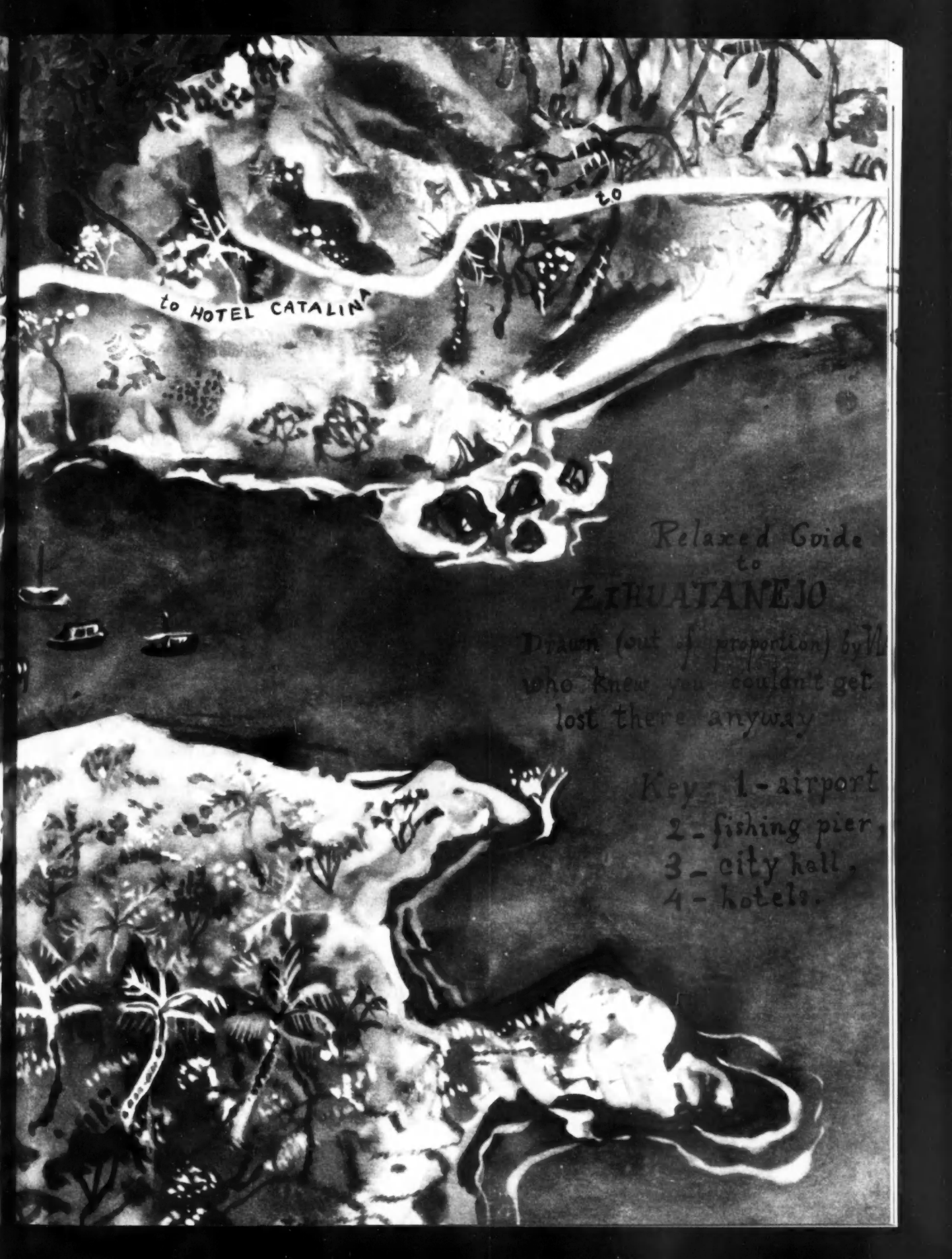
Deep sea fishing is another diversion from the usual beach loafing. To date there are a couple of rentable launches equipped for these trips, and the best spot to head for is just off a white cliff called Morro Potosí.

Zihuatanejo is, in the most specific terms, a "relaxing" town. It provides practically no entertainment (although

*(Continued on p. 16)*







to HOTEL CATALINA

Relaxed Guide  
to

## ZIHUATANEJO

Drawn (out of proportion) by  
who knew you couldn't get  
lost there anyway

Key: 1 - airport  
2 - fishing pier,  
3 - city hall,  
4 - hotels.



(Continued from p. 13)

there is a movie house of sorts), no night life (but a couple of low-pressure open air cafes along the beach where the gentle clink of ice blends nicely with the slow swooshing of the tide), no deep carpets and luxury hotel suites. The town gets its electricity from a small diesel plant that operates from a few minutes before dark until around 11 pm. Most hotel units are handily equipped with kerosene lanterns for those caught with teeth unbrushed and for those who want to continue a card game beyond the usual blackout. With no electricity, practically all activity in town comes to a swift halt. Promenading couples disappear from the plaza, front cafes repose in darkness with chairs stacked up on tables, a deep silence drops over the town as radios and record players go dead. Zihuatanejo reposes in complete peace, lulled by the breaking surf and watched by the flickering lanterns of the fishing boats far out in the bay.

## HOW TO GET THERE

Aerolineas Mexicanas has an efficient tri-weekly service both from Acapulco and Mexico City, the roundtrip costing about \$10 and \$18 from these respective cities. Flights are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

Travelers with a car in good condition and a bit more time can drive the 147 miles from Acapulco to Zihuatanejo. It is fairly easy going for the first 100 miles, but then the pavement concludes and the road quickly goes to pot. Road crews are in there scraping it off, now that the dry season is on, and until next May or so the trip can normally be made without breaking a single spring. Trouble with this part of the road is that it still lacks three major bridges, and this means that motorists must drop down and cross the river beds.

Finally there is the bus, an ideal way to get to Zihuatanejo if you 1) like local color, 2) have plenty of time, 3) don't mind being jounced around, and 4) want to save money. It is a second-class line, which means that it is a milkrun, with stops at every single town on the way. It takes from eight to 11 hours for the journey, depending on the number of passengers, the temper of the driver, and

ZIHUATANEJO BEACH is lined with boats carved out of mammoth tree trunks, as in top photo. Center is a typical balconied house; below is town's movie palace.

the condition of the fan belt. Passengers include chicken, sheep, fish, pigs, and people. The trip costs \$1.12, and the schedule is so erratic that you'd be wise to check after your arrival in Acapulco. Roughly speaking, it leaves bright and early in the morning, gets in around sundown.

## WHERE TO STAY

Advance reservations are difficult, especially spur-of-the-moment ones. No telephone service in Zihuatanejo is why. Best way to make sure you have a room, if you're in a hurry, is to telegraph. There are about 60 tourist units in Zihuatanejo, most of them on the beachfront of the town itself. There are six or seven small hotels with from two to six units each — all so close to the beach that you are continually lulled by the crashing surf and can use your room as a beach cabana. Most of these *hotelitos* have their own dining rooms, where generally good meals are served. Food of the conventional type, most of which has to be brought in from Acapulco, is served sparingly. The main dishes are almost always seafood, excellent

examples of which are captured daily along this stretch of the Pacific.

The most up-to-date hotel, the Catalina, is actually not in the town itself, but several kilometers away, on a hillside overlooking the bay. Customers get back and forth to the beach by funicular, back and forth to town by chauffeured jeeps. Rates here are \$8 per person, with all meals, and 10 to 20 per cent taken off for extra persons in the party. The Catalina is popular with those who fly to Zihuatanejo in their own planes (constituting 75 per cent of the clientele during the busy season) because all they have to do is buzz the hotel and manager Armando Acosta sends a jeep to meet them at the airport. During the season (Dec. 1 to Easter) reservations are absolutely necessary here.

Rooms along the beach in the town itself range from \$5 to \$7 per day per person, with all meals. The biggest spread of rooms here is controlled by Carlos Bernard, the Acapulco hotel man, and for reservations you should get in touch with Felipe Valles, Hotel Belmar, Zihuatanejo, Gro., Mexico. Except during the season, reservations in advance

are not needed, and you can then shop around from hotel to hotel to find just what you want.

## WEATHER

Average is 80 to 85 degrees, almost always accompanied by a light breeze. Nights are usually cool enough for comfortable sleep. Best months to visit Zihuatanejo are from October to June. Other months tend to be sticky-hot with thoughtlessly long periods of rain.

## WHAT TO WEAR

Absolutely nothing dressy, except for what you need to make your re-appearance into the world at the end of your Zihuatanejo stay. You'll find yourself so close to the sea that you'll be making frequent plunges, and unless you like to pull on a damp swimming suit you would be well advised to bring along an extra one. Both men and women could also do well with shorts and the accompanying accessories, sandals, simple sport shirts, maybe a pair of beachcombing slacks. And sun glasses, of course, and sun tan oil.

**HOTELS** in Zihuatanejo range from super-modest to medium-lavish, with a choice of views from postcard prettiness to local color. They have one attraction-in-common: Relaxation.



# GUITARS

by José Raúl Hellmer  
and  
Ward Sinclair

The guitar is the soul of musical Mexico. It gives courage to the timid, expression to the valiant; it lights the flame of love, it gives continuity to the ballads, or *corridos*, that still survive as provincial news narratives even in this age of television, newspapers, and the radio.

The guitar is the means of musical expression in even the poorest communities of Mexico. This is taken for granted. And what of the guitars themselves? Also taken for granted, although collectors and connoisseurs will tell you that probably no country in the world, Spain included, contains such a variety of woods, forms, building techniques, and tuning arrangements as Mexico. Guitar shapes and

styles here run, conservatively, into more than two dozen distinct versions of the familiar instrument, ranging from elaborately inlaid and gracefully shaped native lutes to cracked, unvarnished little guitars with rope knotted around the handle to make the fret board.

It has been said that if Don Vasco de Quiroga, the warm-hearted Spanish priest and viceroy of what is now the state of Michoacán, had not come to Mexico, the guitar would never have been what it now represents in the musical life of the country.

The *michoacanos* still remember, through affectionate legends, this great benefactor of their community who set up small industries for the Tarascan Indians, utilizing their enormous artistic facility in lacquered objects, woodcarving, metal-working, and weaving. Guitar making was thus

completely natural to these craftsmen, and it happened that the center of guitar building came to be Paracho, a picturesque town of 12,000 inhabitants, on the Uruapan highway.

Paracho's fame as a guitar making center is still alive, with its big production still kept on the "cottage industry" level — family groups building instruments in small shops scattered through the town's colonial streets. In many of the shops machines have taken the place of the older hand techniques, and many of the old "maestros" are not too happy about the quality of modern day Paracho guitars, at least those produced in quantities sufficient to meet the great demands of the 20th Century. They sadly admit that the emphasis today is on filling demand — orders flood in from all parts of the Hemisphere — rather than producing fine instruments. A few oldtimers, notably Don



Easily the national instrument of Mexico, the guitar takes on dozens of unique forms here, is one of the best buys and finest products of family craftsmen

Gerónimo Amézcuá, still prefer quality to profit, however.

The most renowned makers of quality guitars today are in Mexico City, and several of them still use the original painstaking hand methods. One of the most respected makers or guitarists is the venerable (78) Herminio Salinas, who is counted among those craftsmen who put quality first and count the admiration of guitarists as their chief profit. He also exemplifies how much the family still figures in fine guitar making in Mexico. His shop on Cerrada de Medellín is manned entirely by members of his family who take solace with old Salinas in the framed note from Andrés Segovia which hangs on the wall. It is an admiring comment on a Salinas guitar, and a consolation for the days when sales are down.

Another family of guitar makers

was established in Mexico City by Gerónimo Villafán, a native of Paracho who began making instruments at the age of seven. He came to Mexico City many years ago and today employs ten men and boys in his shop, all of them close relatives. Among those who use his guitars are Jesus Silva, the famous concert guitarist, and the top Tariacuri and Los Costeños folk music groups.

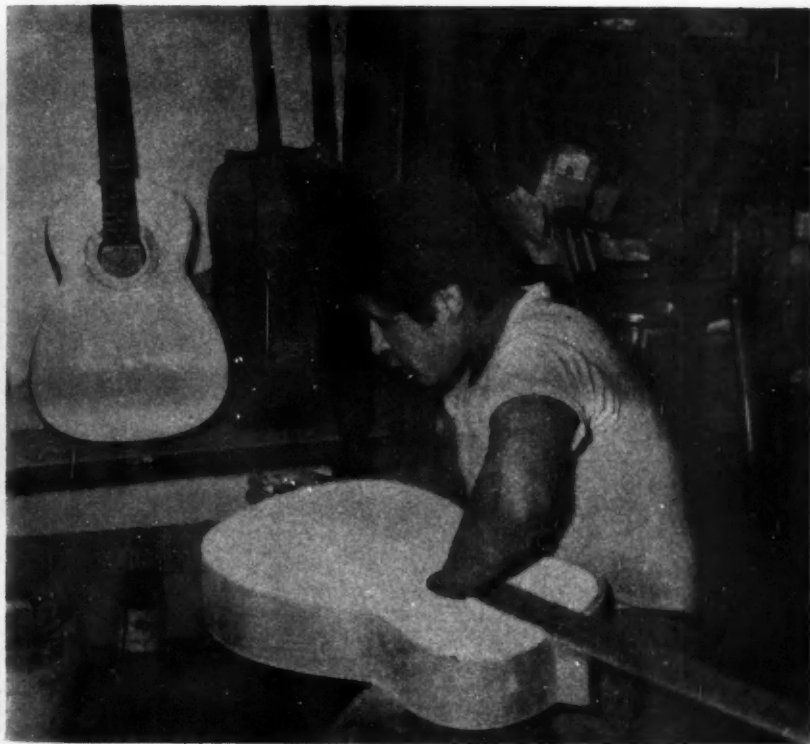
Although there are differences in the fine points of guitar construction, all luthiers agree that the wood used in the instrument is what determines the final tone quality. The top wood, or *tapa resonante*, is what decides the quality of the harmonics and makes the difference between a really fine guitar and an ordinary one.

There is plenty of good quality spruce wood here in Mexico, this being the preferred material the world

(Continued on p. 22)



SHAPING the side pieces of a guitar is now done over electrically-heated tubes.



MEXICAN MAESTROS of guitermaking operate as family groups, lovingly produce instruments sought after by world-famous guitarists.



*Some*

**the arts**

# Treasures of Antiquity

...the Covarrubias Collection

Life and death identical is a frequent symbol in ancient Mexico's art. This head is from the Teotihuacan region.

Obviously dancers, these terracotta figures come from the Gulf area near Veracruz, and are perhaps 1000 years old.



These figures, some dating from early in the Christian era and some of far greater antiquity, have become part of a special display in the National Museum of Archeology. They were



collected by the famous artist Miguel Covarrubias, who late in his life devoted himself to a scholarly study of archeology and wrote a magnificent book about the art and artists of Mexico's past.



This is a sour-faced high priest from the Totonac area on the Gulf coast.



Considerably older than the figure above, this boy in crouch is made of hard basalt, and belongs to one of the oldest cultures.

# GUITARS

(Continued from p. 19)

over for top wood in fine guitars, but the best craftsmen import their spruce from Czechoslovakia because they can get a wood that has been dried for at least 30 years and is therefore certain not to split or shrink with temperature and humidity changes.

Other excellent top woods, found in Mexico, are yellow and white pine, red cedar, and *cirimo* and *haya*, the white and yellow-colored woods found in Michoacán. All of these native woods, although high in resonance, have less resistance to the tension of the strings and tend to bend out of shape over a period of time, allowing the strings to get too close to the fret board.

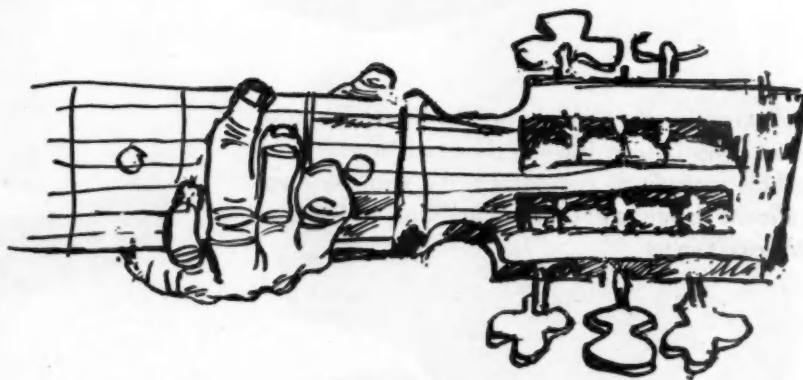
In the best guitars, the spruce must have the straightest, narrowest grain possible for achieving the finest acoustic qualities. These qualities are subtle. Pine and cedar-top guitars often have an exceedingly fine bass resonance, but the high notes usually sound dull and lacking in volume, whereas the spruce-top guitar may appear to have less bass resonance, but will have clear, strong high notes and what amounts to a perfect balance in volume between high and low registers, none of the "boom" in the clean bass resonance. *Maestros* like Salinas, Villafán and Vicente Solís can tell in advance just how a guitar is going to sound by merely tapping a piece of thinned down top wood with their forefingers and plying it in their hands.

Construction, though painstaking, is relatively simple; care, patience and know-how spell the difference between a good instrument and a poor one. The neck of the guitar is cut out of a huge slab and whittled into rough outline. Next the sides are cut from another block, usually a different kind of wood, with an ornamented grain, and formed into their half figure-eight shapes by dampening and then drying on electric rollers or in molds held over an open fire. The two sides and neck are joined

with glue and screws, and the underside and critical top-wood are secured in place with more glue. It is interesting to note that a number of makers who work near the coast cannot use the ordinary hot glue because it opens up with the humidity; they have devised a glue made in some way from fish to resist this coastal dampness. Some of the Mexico City makers now use the newer synthetic glues.

The all-important top wood needs some sort of internal support because of the immense tension of the strings (a properly-tuned guitar has a pull of 145 pounds even when the strings are not being strummed). In cheaper guitars the support consists of two or three cross-pieces, usually so thick

fine guitar. This process is done empirically in most cases, using a *patron*, or piece of wood which has the fret positions notched in it as a guide, usually copied from a fine guitar which the maker in his own early days borrowed to make his fret boards accurately. The best fret boards are made of ebony because it is so hard and resists the finger pressure which in cheaper woods quickly causes hollows behind the metal frets. Good woods for this fret board are *granadillo* and *tepguaje*, while poor fret woods are pine and cedar. The fret board is a separate piece of wood which is glued over the neck. It also gives great structural strength to the guitar, preventing the neck from



that they reduce the volume and quality of the sound. In fine guitars, the cross-piece below the hole has a thin, fan-shaped structure that supports the top wood, yet permits free resonance.

After the top wood, with its hole carved out, is secured on the structure of the guitar body, the instrument is then sanded and the first coats of hand-rubbed varnish are applied. The fret board is then carefully sanded and the frets placed according to the logarithmic formula which gives perfect tuning in all keys in a

bending upward in the course of time with the tension of the strings.

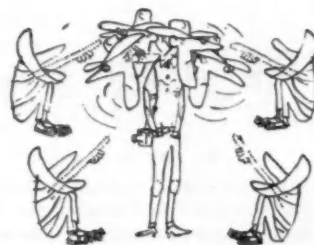
The final phase of construction is to place the wooden bridge on the top, install the turning screws, fit the little bone ridges on the neck and the bridge, and put the final inlay or incrustation around the hole and edge of the guitar. The instrument is given final coats of varnish and hand rubbed to a high gloss. Strings are fitted, the maker's label is glued inside, and another fine instrument—*el instrumento intimo* of Mexico—is ready.



The English here all have liver trouble. This is caused not by the rich and spicy Mexican cuisine. The true origin is getting angry all the time because of being taken for Americans, however complete the English disguise may be.



The Catalan in Mexico is bothered only by one thing: the Spanish language. As for the rest, nothing interests him as he ignores it all. He's as Catalan in Tenochtitlan as he was in Barcelona.



Texans in Texas and everywhere else on the globe, including in Mexico, feel Texans and can't possibly get away from the guilt complex originated by that "piece of business of Santa Anna's," which resulted in Texans going to Washington.

**Our Professor Bartoli presents results of his researches into typical maladies of foreigners who settle in Mexico. This is a first report of a very extensive work. Further data will be published in future issues.**



The Irish are among the very few foreigners who act exactly the same here as in the coid country. No prejudices either as to whether tequila can substitute adequately for whiskey.



The Chinese likes Mexico, and is not troubled either by Mexicans, Spaniards, English, Germans, Catalans, French or Texans. He's Chinese. Of the Spanish language all he knows is "China tu male..."



The Italian accomodates himself to any latitude and is to be found in all, always having annexed to himself Columbus and Don Juan. This includes Italians in Mexico, where they produce a high concentration of Latin Lovers.



At heart, every Spaniard in Mexico is Cortés himself, naturally... only the years have passed and now it's the Spaniards who go afoot. Generally they take a taxi though when on the way —hurriedly—to the café.



The French travel much less than their culture and their refined cooking. That is why they seldom know any geography. They therefore generally believe that all natives wear rings in their noses —or might as well. This ailment is a specialized variety of the general foreigner-in-exile syndrome.



All Germans in Mexico are mechanical technicians, chemical industry specialists, inventors, and descendants of Frederick the Great. They are all either Herr Doktor or Von or both, with which the Mexicans manage to content them, leaving the rest muttered. Germans all click their heels, and double in two to kiss the ladies' hands, whether or not they just got off the boat from a coal mine in Silesia.

# BOOKS

By Lois de Banzie

For the would-be visitor to Mexico, the one-time visitor, or the long-time resident, the past year produced a good choice of books *a la Mexicana*. We've tried to select a variety of titles, one of which is bound to particularly appeal to you or someone you know.

For a starter, there is "Mexico Today," by John A. Crow, Harper, N. Y., \$4.95. Written by an enthusiastic admirer of Mexico and the Mexican people, the book talks about the transformations taking place throughout the country now, and the tremendously rapid growth in the cities. Through his conversations with businessmen, architects, priests, teachers, the housewife and the man-in-the street, Crow traces the development of industry, education, agriculture and architecture. The book gives a good background which will enable the visitor to understand and appreciate what he is going to see here.

Recommended more for the habitués or year-around residents of Mexico is "The Pig in the Barber Shop," by H. Allen Smith Little Brown, Boston, \$3.95. Smith manages to do a formidable amount of local name-dropping amongst the expected bits of hilarity in this account of his travels through Mexico. His description of a bullfight is very funny indeed, and it's rather fine to see familiar landmarks and points of interest—bars, restaurants, and other dives, as well as the pyramids—through fresh eyes.

For the person (layman, student, or professor), who likes to trace the why's wherefore's of Mexico's culture and people, "The Aztecs: People of the Sun," by Alfonso Caso, is very rewarding. Published by the University of Oklahoma Press, Oklahoma, \$4.95, this is the first translation into English (by Lowell Dunham) of Professor Caso's brilliant account of Aztec religion, art, customs, practices of magic and human sacrifice. Lavishly illustrated in color by the late Miguel Covarrubias, this is a Quetzalcóatl, Xólotl, Tláloc, etc.—played in the lives of these religious people.

"The Theater in Mexico," published by the National Institute of Fine Arts (about 75 pesos.) This excellently-illustrated book contains the history of the theater, opera and the dance in Mexico during the past quarter of a century, with reports on various phases thereof by López Mancera, Celestino Gorotiza, Rafael Solana, and Juan Soriano, photos by Jorge Gutiérrez, and art work by Julio Castellanos, Carlos Mérida, Julio Prieto, Antonio López Mancera, José Reyes Meza, and others.

For the art connoisseur there is a magnificently produced and printed book of pre-Hispanic paintings, the tenth volume in a series devoted to the rare masterpieces of the world. This World Art Series, has a preface by Jacques Soustelle and an introduction by Ignacio Bernal. There are 32 full-page color reproductions, and the price is \$ 18.00.

Especially for the 12- to 16-year-olds: "The Young Traveller in Mexico and Central America," by Betty Ross, Phoenix House, London, 21.25 pesos. Written in fictional



Engraving by F. Ledesma

form, describing a journey through Mexico taken by a young brother and sister, this book in the "Young Traveller" series manages to get across a great deal of information about Mexico in an easy, informal way. The children's parents are travelling through Guatemala, Panama, El Salvador and Costa Rica, and life and customs there are described very well in their letters to the children. A highly entertaining way of learning geography.

Perhaps your Spanish is good enough to enjoy reading some books in the original, in which case we recommend "ya Region Mas Transparente" by Carlos Fuentes, Fondo de Cultura Económica, Mexico, 25.00 pesos. This is a fascinating series of portraits of individuals of all social levels in present-day Mexico City: the old revolutionaries, the literary poseurs, the nouveau riche. But it is really the portrait of a city, the one described by Alfonso Reyes: "Traveler you have reached the most transparent region of the air." This book is on the bestseller lists, and has been from the moment of the first of its many printings.

Josefina Vicens "El Libro Vacío," Compañía General de Ediciones, Mexico, 16.00 pesos, is a thought-provoking novel of a man who struggles to express himself in writing, and his search for the way and truth of life. Written with fine simplicity by one of the most promising modern Mexican authors.

Also in Spanish is a critical biography of one of the originators of the Mexican school of painting, Francisco Goitia, containing many of the painter's previously unpublished letters. The reproductions are first-rate, and the title is, simply, "Goitia," by Antonio Luna Arroyo, Mexico, 140.00 pesos.

**Want to improve your Spanish? There are**

so many how-to-learn-a-language books to choose from that it's sometimes rather bewildering. Here are a few tried-and-true ones that should prove useful. High on the recommended list is Frederika Martin's "Everyday Mexican Spanish," Mexico, 25.00 pesos. It's full of fascinating—and essential—colloquialisms, and very local words and phrases not usually found in English/Spanish dictionaries, all quite socially acceptable. There are marketing hints, strictly Indian and Mexican names for certain vegetables and foods, etc. You can't go wrong with this one.

It's rather encouraging to be told at the beginning of "Madrigal's Magic Key to Spanish," by Margarita Madrigal, Doubleday, N. Y., \$4.80, that "At this moment you know several thousand Spanish words, even if you have never seen or heard a Spanish word before." The author goes on to list the hundreds of English words into Spanish, just by changing or adding two or three final letters. She teaches the past tense of verbs before the present tense, feeling that "I did such-and-such" is at least the beginning of a story, whereas "I do such-and-such" is apt to stop you cold. This is a language method that does not rely on your memory, but on your powers of creation. And a very effective method it is.

Handy to glance at quickly when in difficulty or doubt is the "Berlitz Spanish For Travellers," Grosset and Dunlap, N. Y., \$1.00. This is a small procketbook-sized phrase book and glossary. Among the eighteen chapters are "When You're Hungry," "When You Travel by Bus or Taxi," "Is there A Doctor in the House" and "If You Write or Cable," all with pertinent phrases given phonetically, which looks odd to say the least, but does work!

"Teach Yourself Spanish," by N. Scarlyn Wilson, English Universities Press, London, 13.50 pesos, is one of a series of teach-yourself books. This one starts off with a down-to-earth, no-nonsense statement: "No one can learn to pronounce Spanish from a book." And in the same matter-of-fact, honest way, the author proceeds to lead the beginner through the intricacies of a foreign language, in a manner which helps make it seem slightly less intricate.

Another one-of-a-series language books is "Getting Along in Spanish," by Mario Pei and Eloy Vaquero. It's published by Harper in conjunction with *Holiday* magazine, and costs 31.25 pesos. Again, it gets down to the business of learning a foreign language with the least possible pain, and has an extensive phrase section arranged under twenty-four useful classifications. The vocabulary is presented in English/Spanish, Spanish/English listings, so you can never be completely at a loss when faced with a word you've never heard of before.

# Our own Directory

## GUITARS:

The very best guitars, made entirely by hand and with imported wood, are of concert quality and indeed are played by professional guitarists for the most part. They cost from around \$35 to about \$250, and places to find them are:

Herminio Salinas, Cerrada de Medellín 15, México, D. F.

Gerónimo Villafán, Héroes de Granaditas 59, México, D. F.

Vicente Solís, Dr. Olvera 202, México, D. F.

Gerónimo Amézcuca, 20 de Noviembre 27, Paracho, Mich.

Medium-priced guitars, usually very good for luke-warm *aficionados* and serious beginners, cost between \$20 to \$60. One good shop for this class of guitar is that of Dimas Solís, Lago Cuitzeo 187, Mexico City.

Cheap guitars (\$8 to \$15) are found in profusion in Lagunilla Market in Mexico City, as well as on a short stretch of Calle Allende, between Cuba and Tacuba, in the old part of town. These are passable instruments, excellent for general plunking and of good, durable construction, which explains why they are used so much by street musicians, and why they survive this rugged life as long as they do.

All grades of guitars may be found around the country, but here you should know your instruments to know if the price is right. Some centers of guitar-making: Tamazunchale in San Luis Potosí, Juchitán in Oaxaca, Monterrey in Nuevo León, and San Cristobal las Casas in Chiapas.

12.50 pesos for one dollar), but the best way to order books from Mexico is simply write to one of the following bookshops with your request. Most of them will send you your book with an invoice for the cost of the book and the postage charge.

In case you want to communicate with Mexican publishers, a list of some of the leading ones follows the book stores we give.

### Stores:

American Book Store, S. A.  
Madero No. 25

## BOOKS:

Here is a list of bookstores in Mexico City specializing in shipping books around the world. Advance payment can be made in either dollars or pesos (the exchange rate is



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Hotels: Salmenes, Hotel Mexico and the Principal.

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Further Information: Write directly to Cook's Tours, Ave. Juárez 88, México, D. F.

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# the Knife and Fork

by Joan López Bermúdez

## HANGOVER SOUP

Pet formulas for curing hangovers are unlimited and alarmingly varied. Running the gamut briefly might take from an egg in our beer to a horseback ride in the park. The latter technique would seem to require an assistant to boost one on the horse, but the jouncing about later is supposed to remove that dark green taste.

Mexicans do it with a soup. A good hot *caldo* of chicken. Today they have the *caldo* in their respective homes, or in any one of a thousand restaurants, but at one time there existed a fashionable spot for Morning After souping.

At the end of the last century and the beginning of this, the principle means of transportation was by streetcar, and they terminated at a point called Indianilla. For the benefit of hungry motormen and an occasional carouser who had slept past his stop, the terminal contained a few "soup shacks," and these served a hearty chicken soup 24 hours a day. Maybe that's how the Caldos of Indianilla gained their fame. Soon, the idea of finishing the night at Indianilla

wasn't an accident, but rather a custom.

The advent of many affable but often quarrelsome *parrandros* (gentlemen bent on fun) to Indianilla also attracted the services of public musicians, smiling ladies, policemen and the inevitable salesmen. The most colorful of whom were the women who sold *café de olla con piquete* (coffee cooked with brown sugar and containing a shot of alcohol.) Seated on the ground in front of their coal braceros which heated the coffee, they added a little straight alcohol to each cup sold. This potion kept spirits high despite the sobering effects of the soup.

Indianilla reached its peak and then it started to wane. Controls on alcohol sales ruined the coffee saleswoman. Buses came to the city, and virtually replaced the streetcars, and when city authorities ordered all

*puestos* (vendor's shacks) removed, it was the *coup de grace*.

Today a prosaic restaurant is all that remains of the hurlyburly which once prevailed. Mexicans still like to reminisce about it, and before the conversations close, someone always asks, "Whatever became of the Caldos de Indianilla?"

## MTM's Version of the Indianilla Caldo

Place one fat, cut-up hen in three quarts of cold water; add 1 onion, 2 carrots, 1 leek, 2 turnips, 2 garlic cloves, ¼ cup rice, 1 cup garbanzos (chick peas), parsley and 6 extra chicken feet that have been previously skinned. Simmer slowly several hours uncovered, skimming often. Add salt before serving. As a compliment, side dishes of chopped onions, chopped parsley and chile seeds should be placed on the table for individual use. Chopped avocado is also a fine addition.



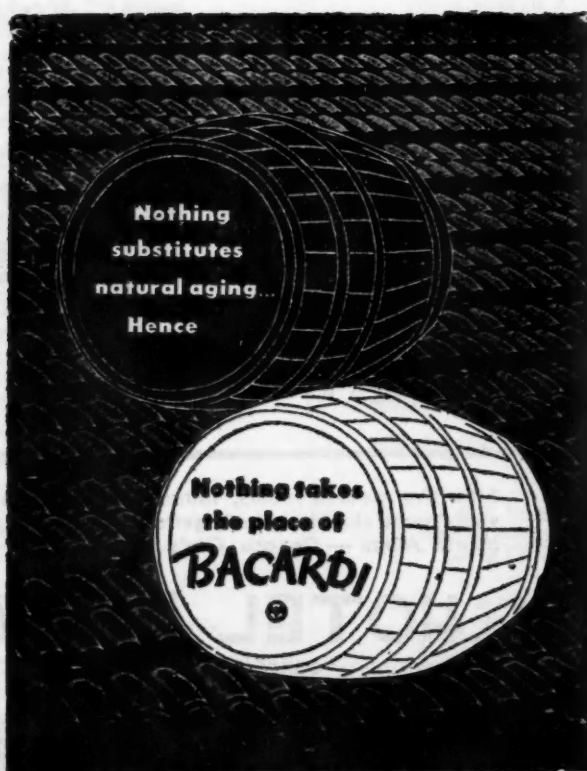
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